



HEALTH ALERT (#51)

Swine Origin Influenza in Washington County, PA

TO: West Virginia Local Health Departments; Sentinel Influenza Providers; Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities

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WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health**

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO SENTINEL INFLUENZA PROVIDERS, COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

Three cases of swine origin influenza A (H3N2) have been identified in residents of Pennsylvania in association with attendance at the Washington County Fair. In addition, a case has also been identified in the state of Indiana. See:

http://cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm60e0902a1.htm?s_cid=mm60e0902a1_w

The WV Bureau for Public Health is working with the PA Department of Health and CDC to identify any additional cases of infection with this H3N2 influenza virus of swine origin.

West Virginia physicians and sentinel influenza providers should:

- Obtain culture or PCR for influenza on patients presenting with influenza-like illness (rapid tests are especially unreliable during times of low influenza prevalence);
- Report cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) (fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ and cough or sore throat without another identified cause) to the local health department; and
- Inquire about exposure to swine in persons presenting with ILI.

West Virginia laboratories should forward influenza A isolates to the Office of Laboratory Services for sub-typing. Local health departments should report clusters of influenza-like illness immediately. For questions, contact the local health department or the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (800)-423-1271.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to Local health departments in West Virginia. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.